Living Nativity Scene

1968

BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1968

"LIVING NATIVITY SCENE" TO BE PRESENTED SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Mrs. Donald Brooks will handle general chairmanship duties of Bethel's "Living Nativity Scene" to be held Sunday, Dec. 22. Mrs. Brooks will be selecting sub-committee chairmen to assist her. Interested volunteers are urged to call her and offer their services in the area of their interest.

As this community project enters its fifth Christmas season, the key word is "involvement." The more people offering to help —the easier it will be for everyone. And the more everyone shares in the "giving", the more they will share in the "getting" when the pageant is offered to the community on the Sunday before Christmas.

Lewiston Sun 12/3/68

BETHEL CITIZENS PLAN ANNUAL EVENT

BETHEL — Plans for Bethel's fourth annual Living Nativity Scene will be formulated at a meeting Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Charles Farrar.

This annual community project is traditionally held the Sunday before Christmas. It is a project that is well organized and supported by the entire community. This meeting is to set plans in motion.

Area churches and organizations should send representatives and interested citizens are invited to share in plans for this annual Yultide experience.

BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12. 1968

MAKING FINAL PLANS for the annual "Living Nativity Scene," Mrs. Susan Farrar, director, and Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, general chairman, are shown above going over final plans for this year's pageant to be presented Sunday, Dec. 22.

"LIVE CHORAL TREE" TO BE FEATURE OF THIS YEAR'S NATIVITY PAGEANT DEC. 22

The fifth annual Living Nativity Scene will be presented to the community on Sunday, Dec 22, at 4:30 p. m., 5:30 p. m., and 6:30 p. m., on the Bethel Common.

A "live choral tree" will be a new feature of this year's pageant. Carolers will be arranged on bleachers in the form of a tree. Each "tree branch" will be lighted and an angel will form the point of the tree. Community people interested in joining the carolers are invited to attend a choir rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 5 p. m. in the Telstar Music Room. The success of this new feature will depend on numbers. Anyone who enjoys singing the familiar Christmas carols is urged to join this group. Additional rehearsals will be held with the pageant cast on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Odeon Hall at 6 p. m.; and Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Bethel Fire Station at 4:30 p. m.

Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, general chairman, announces the following sub-committees: director, Mrs. Susan Farrar; publicity, Mrs. Rosabelle Tifft: grounds and general lighting, Mrs. Pearline McMillin, with Roderick McMillin, handling snow removal and traffic control: special lighting and sound, Mrs. Annebelle Lee assisted by Clayton Crockett on sound and James Bolen and Cheryl Stevens on special lighting.

Irving Cummings and Henry Dombkowski head the building committee assisted by the Bethel Boy Scouts and Pilgrim Youth Fellowship; ground control on the Common will be handled by Leslie Smith, John Greenleaf, Lincoln Fiske and Charles Farrar. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Douglass have charge of animals and their transportation. W. J. Graves, Jr., will loan the sheep, and John Coolidge, the oxen. William Chapman will donate the hay.

Mrs. Carolyn Brooks has charge of decorations and refreshments for the cast. Assisting her on Christmas trees will be the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Elsie Waldron will gather the boughs. Bethel Girl Scouts will assist with refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. David Denison head the costume committee assisted by Mrs. Agnes Thurston, Mrs. Beatrice Favreau, Mrs. Sue Fiske, Mrs. Barbara Douglass, Mrs. Mary Lou Fiske, and Madame Thomine.

The make-up committee will be headed by Mrs. Virginia Kenisston assisted by: Mrs. Caroline Merrill, Mrs. Judy Webster, Mrs. Joan Chadbourne, Mrs. Raymond Carver, Mrs. Margaret Record, Miss Bethany Andrews, and Dale Thurston.

Mrs. Arlene Brown will handle props. Guiding Stars are again being handled by Helen Varner and her sixth graders at Crescent Park School, and Alton Luxton will assist in placing them throughout the area.

Mrs. Betty Tebbets will serve as choir director. Mrs. Dorothy Ryder heads the telephone committee. Clean-up will be under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rolfe, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carver. Mrs. Sarah Stevens is making preparations for a bean supper to be served to the cast after the final pageant. She will be assisted by the Pilgrim Fellowship.

BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1968

TO PRESENT 5th ANNUAL "LIVING NATIVITY SCENE" SUNDAY, DEC. 22

The Bethel community will present its fifth annual Living Nativity Scene on the Bethel Common on Sunday, Dec. 22. Three 30-minute presentations will be given at 4:30 p. m., 5:30 p. m.. and 6:30 p. m. Visitors from surrounding areas are invited to attend.

Guiding stars have again been placed on all roads leading into the town. Church bells will ring out ten minutes before each presentation to alert everyone to gather at the manger. The chorus, in the form of a "lighted choral tree", will be noticeable as crowds arrive.

Once again, the story of the first Christmas will be enacted in pantomime: the choral group will provide live music; and the Christmas story will be given by a commentator. Everyone will join with the chorus in the singing of the final hymn.

Participants in the scene include: Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roy, Michael Roy, William Koen, Roland Glines, John Tebbets, Robert Tifft Jr., Senor Ortero-Ortero, Douglas Farrar, Steven Blanchard, Lisa Farrar, Linda Buck, Donald Favreau, Daniel Wheeler, Willard Gorman, Michael Davis, George Stebbins Jr., John Trinward, Ross Timberlake, Bradley Fiske, Lincoln Fiske Jr., David Vaughan, Charles Mason, Stewart Sweetser, Llewellyn Cobb, Michael O'Donnel, Sandra Carver, Debby Buck, and Susan MacKay. Rev. George Stebbins will give the commentary. Bell ringers include Lottie Butters, Denise Berry, Michael Myers, Samuel Eames, Cynthia Kailey, Jill Hutchins, Bruce Douglass and Kevin Trinward.

This is an era where fast commercialized living all too often takes over at Christmas. But Bethel people find the true meaning of Christmas by working and sharing together with plans for this pageant. They invite all interested people from surrounding areas to attend and share this experience with them.

Maine Sunday Telegram 12/22/68

FINAL "NATIVITY" CHOIR REHEARSAL SATURDAY

Due to the Sunday storm choir rehearsal for Nativity had to be called off. Please come to the final rehearsal on Saturday at 5 o'clock at the Bethel Fire Station. Dress warmly and plan to sing out of doors on the Common. You can help make the "Living Nativity Tree" a success this year.

NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

The committee for the Living Nativity Scene would appreciate it if you would keep your dogs inside, on Sunday afternoon and evening, Dec. 22, during the time of the pageant because of the animals involved in the pageant scene. Thank you.

Living Nativity Pageant Today

BETHEL — The fifth annual 'Living Nativity Scene" will be presented today on the Bethel Common. Presentations are scheduled for 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

The pageant is being directed by Mrs. Charles Farrar. The Rev. George Stebbins will narrate.

Rumford (Maine) Falls Times; 12/19/68

Living Nativity Scene To Be Given At Bethel

Townspeople of Bethel, will present their fifth annual Living Nativity Scene on the outdoor Bethel Common on Sunday, Dec. 22. Three presentations will be given, at 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Visitors from surrounding areas are invited to attend and share this experience.

Guiding stars have been placed on all roads leading into Bethel to direct visitors to the manger. Church bells will ring throughout the town ten minutes before each presentation to alert townspeople and visitors to gather at the manger. A "lighted choral tree" will be a new feature this year. This will consist of a choir situated on bleachers in the form of a tree. An angel will form the top. Each "tree branch" will be lighted, and this will be noticeable as crowds gather at the manger.

In this 30-minute pageant, the story of the first Christmas will be enacted in pantomime, the choral group will provide live music, and the Christmas story will be given by a commentator.

General chairman is Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, with Mrs. Susan Farrar as director. Mrs. Rosabelle Tifft is publicity director. Sub-committees and assistants include: Grounds and general lighting: Mrs. Pearline McMillin, assisted by Roderick McMillin, Charles Farrar and Blake MacKay; Special lighting and sound: Mrs. Annabelle Lee assisted by James Bolen, Cheryl Stevens, and Clayton Crockett. Building committee: Irving Cummings, Henry Dombkowski, and Clarence Howe, assisted by the Bethel Boy Scouts and the Pilgrim Fellowship. Assisting them with crowd control on the Common will be Leslie Smith, John Greenleaf, Lincoln Fiske, Charles Farrar, and Frank Packard.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Douglas will have charge of animals and their transportation. Animals will be loaned by W. J. Graves, Jr., John Coolidge, Miss Karen Brown, and the Rumford Animal Park. Louis Sargent and James Hudson will help transport the animals. William Chapman will supply the hay.

Mrs. Caroline Brooks will handle decorations and refreshments for the cast. The American Legion will supply the Christmas trees to be decorated by the American Legion Auxiliary. Mrs. Elsie Waldron will supply the boughs. Bethel Girl Scouts will assist with refreshments for the cast between scenes.

Mr. and Mrs. David Denison will direct the costume committee assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Spugnard, Agnes Thurston, Beatrice Favreau, Sue Fiske, Mary Lou Fiske, Barbara Douglas and Madame Thomaine.

Mrs. Virginia Kenniston heads the make-up committee assisted by Caroline Merrill, Judy Webster, Joan Chadbourne, Mrs. Raymond Carver, Margaret Record, Bethany Andrews, and Dale Thurston.

Properties are being assembled by Mrs. Arlene Brown. The guiding stars were prepared by the sixth grade students at Crescent Park School under the direction of Miss Helen Varner. William Luxton assisted in placing them throughout the area.

Choir director is Mrs. Betty Tebbets; telephone caller, Mrs. Dorothy Ryder; clean-up committee, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rolfe and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carver. Mrs. Sarah Stevens and Mrs. Adeline Dexter are making preparations for a bean supper to be served to the pageant cast following the final presentation. The Pilgrim Fellowship will assist.

Participants in the pageant scene includes: Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roy, Michael Roy, William Koen, Roland Glines, John Tebbets, Robert Tifft, Jr., Senor Ortero-Ortero, Douglas Farrar, James Blanchard, Lisa Farrar, Linda Buck, Donaald Favreau.

Daniel Wheeler, Willard Gorman, Michael Davis, George Stebbins, Jr., John Trinward, Ross Timberlake, Bradley Fiske, Lincoln Fiske, Jr., David Vaughn, Charles Mason, Stewart Sweetsir, Llewlyn Cobb, Michael O'Donnell, Sandra Carver, Debby Buck, and Susan MacKay.

Rev. George Stebbins will give the commentary.

Bell ringers include Lottie Butters, Denise Berry, Michael Myers, Samuel Eames, Cynthia Kailey, Jill Hutchins, Bruce Douglas and Kevin Trinward.

In an era where fast commercialized living all too often takes over at Christmas, this community of Bethel has found the true meaning of Christmas by working and sharing together with plans for this pageant. They invite all interested people from surrounding areas to attend and share this experience with them.

THE OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN, BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1968

Bethel's Fifth Annual Presentation of the "Living Nativity Scene" on the Common last Sunday, Dec. 22.

"Bethel's Christmas Card to Maine"

That's how they described our "Living Nativity Scene" in a second television showing Christmas Day.

The first showing was on Christmas Eve as an example of how a Maine community finds the true meaning of Christmas by sharing together with plans for this re-enactment of the Nativity.

No doubt, this community is the only one in Maine that celebrates Christmas together this way. Perhaps Bethel is one of the few in the country!

But the final living "Christmas Card Scene" that is portrayed is the result of efforts of many people. Perhaps over half the citizens of Bethel become involved through their churches, civic organizations or in some other manner, to support the fifty who actually participate in the Scene!

It was only two weeks ago that Mrs. Donald Brooks, chairman, and Mrs. Charles Farrar, director, along with a planning committee, started to put the plans in motion that created the final Scene—the Sunday before Christmas. But that's the way Bethel people react to this true community project.

Call it pride - call it communtiy spirit - but above all, call it Bethel's gift to one another. Or, as they said on television, call it Bethel's "Living Christmas Card to Maine"!

What a fine example of community spirit to expose to visitors throughout Maine.

Who knows how many people, or outside visitors, who may wish to spend their Christmas this way, may decide to settle in the area someday as a result of these efforts!

THE OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN, BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1968

Behind the Scenes Last Sunday

Pictured here are a few views taken at the Bethel Fire Station last Sunday afternoon while preparations were being made for the annual presentation of the "Living Nativity Scene".

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roy and their infant son, Michael, who portrayed the leading characters in this year's Living Nativity production.

Dale Thurston works on the beard of John Tebbets, one of the Wise Men.

Mrs. Raymond Carver gives Susan MacKay a final application.

Beth Andrews applies make-up to Linda Buck.

Ready for the First Performance. Bill Koen, Rolly Glines and John Tebbets.

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to the many people who gave their time and talent to make our fifth annual Nativity Pageant possible this year.

Susan Farrar

Brown Photo

BETHEL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANS UNDERWAY — A "live choral tree" will be one of the features at this year's Christmas pageant being presented under the chairmanship of Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, right Mrs. Susan Farrar, left, is director of the program that will include the Living Nativity Scene, Dec. 22 at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on the outdoor Common.

Living Nativity Scene to Be Presented at Bethel

BETHEL — The Bethel community will present their fifth annual Living Nativity Scene Dec. 22 at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on the outdoor Common.

Mrs. Eleanor Brooks, general chairman, announces the following subcommittees: Director, Mrs. Susan Farrar; publicity, Mrs. Rosabelle Tifft; grounds and general lighting, Mrs. Pearline McMillan; special lighting and sound, Mrs. Annabelle Lee; building committee, Irving Cummings and Henry Dombkowski; animals and transportation, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Douglas; decorations and refreshments for cast: Mrs. Caroline Brooks; costumes, Mr. and Mrs. David Denison; make-up, Mrs. Virginia Kenniston; properties, Mrs. Arlene Brown; choir, Mrs. Bette Tebbets; telephone committee, Mrs. Dorothy Ryder; clean-up, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rolfe; bean supper for cast following pageant, Mrs. Sarah Stevens.

A "live choral tree" will be a new feature at this year's pageant. Carolers will be arranged on bleachers in the form of a tree. Each will hold a light and an angel will form the point of the tree. Community people interested in joining the carolers are invited to attend a choir rehearsal on Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Telstar music room. They will join the pageant cast for additional rehearsals Wednesday, at Odeon Hall at 6 p.m., and Dec. 21, at the Bethel Fire Station at 4:30 p.m.

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president, Tolman Bonney; chaplain, Rev. Ernest Bolio; secretary-treasurer, Vernon Bradeen. Refreshments were served by Horace Cobb and Vernon Bradeen.

Mrs. Norma Newton returned Wednesday from the CMG Hospital where she has been a surgical patient. Her daughter, Miss Lola Newton, RN, Augusta, is staying with her for a week while she convalesces.

Brown Photo

PREPARING FOR LIVING NATIVITY SCENE AT BETHEL — Busy preparations are underway for the fourth annual Living Nativity Scene to be held Dec. 17, on the Bethel Common. Scenes will take place at 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The first pageant was televised for a Christmas eve showing. This film is now the permanent possession of tthe pageant director. It is available on loan to clubs.

Live music will enhance the scene this year for the first time with a choral group under the direction of James Owen, music director at Gould Academy.

Shown above completing plans for the program are left to right, Mrs. Susan Farrar, Mrs. David Thompson, Mrs. Robert Tifft and Miss Suzanne Kneeland, general chairman.

LIVE MUSIC TO ENHANCE 4th ANNUAL NATIVITY SCENE

Bethel townspeople are again busily preparing for their fourth annual Living Nativity Scene to be held on Sunday, December 17, on the Bethel Common. Scenes will take place at 4:30 p. m., 5:30 p. m. and 6:30 p. m.

Suzanne Kneeland, general chairman, states there has been a most heartwarming responce to the announcement that plans are underway. This has been evidenced by the many willing volunteers already carrying on in their usual roles held for the past three years. All churches are again cooperating in selecting shepherds and bell-ringers. Mrs. Susan Farrar will again serve as director.

Ever since Bethel people started their annual Christmas pageant, it has been their earnest desire to have live music at the Scene. This year, James Owen, music director at Gould Academy, has generously volunteered his services to make this possible. He will direct and organize this new choral group. Anyone in the community interested is invited to participate. There will be a meeting of those interested in participating at the Congregational Church Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p. m.

The costume committee is interested in adding some special pieces to their wardrobe of costume materials this year. There is a special need for bright satin pieces or material with metalic threads. Anyone willing to donate or loan these materials is asked to contact costume chairman, Mrs. Nellie Frankevicz on Paradise Road.

More spotlights will also be needed. Anyone willing to loan or donate these lights should contact the pageant chairman.

As community people may recall ,the first pageant was televised for a Christmas eve showing. This film is now the permasent possession of the pageant director. It is available on loan to interested clubs, or for showings to people who might not be able to attend the pageant. Interested persons may contact Miss Kneeland.

Miss Kneeland is still contacting local churches, organizations, and community people for committee assignments. But if you are a new-comer to Bethel, or an old-timer who hasn't been asked, and you're willing to share in the holiday season with your Bethel neighbors, then contact the chairman. The Living Nativity Scene, Bethel's gift to the Christmas season, is a memorable event. But the most important part of the final experience is in the plans and anticipations — and this is where the true Christmas spirit of sharing can be found.

Oxford County Citizen Nov. 23, 1967

CHAIRMAN SELECTED FOR DEC. 17 NATIVITY SCENE

Miss Suzanne Kneeland will be the chairman for Bethel's Living Nativity Scene to be presented again this year on the Bethel Common on December 17th. Initial plans will be made on Wednesday, November 15th at 8:00 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Charles Farrar. Everyone interested in community work or desiring to be participants in the cast should come to this meeting.

The fine community response and enthusiasm in the past indicates that this annual event is truly a community project.